

MAR 10 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO EXPLORE THE
FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM TO
INCLUDE A BROADER RANGE OF INCOMES.

1 WHEREAS, early head start is a federal program that
2 provides family-centered services that facilitate child
3 development, support parental roles, and promote self-
4 sufficiency; and

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6 WHEREAS, the overall goal of early head start programs is
7 to increase the social competence of young children in low-
8 income families through family and child development; and

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10 WHEREAS, children who have been given early learning
11 opportunities are more likely to grow into healthy, capable, and
12 contributing adults; and

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14 WHEREAS, early head start services are provided at no cost
15 to families that qualify; and

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17 WHEREAS, early head start programs serve infants, toddlers,
18 and pregnant women and their families who have incomes below the
19 federal poverty level; and

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21 WHEREAS, regardless of income, early head start services
22 are available for pregnant women, children in foster care,
23 homeless children, children from families receiving public
24 assistance, and children with a disability certified through the
25 Department of Education; and

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27 WHEREAS, all other families must qualify based on the
28 federal poverty guidelines, which in Hawaii require that a
29 family's household income be under \$18,090 for a household of
30 two and \$27,430 for a household of four; and
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1 WHEREAS, the income eligibility requirement excludes some
 2 families that cannot afford to pay for early learning programs
 3 from receiving the services provided by early head start; now,
 4 therefore,

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 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
 7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
 8 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 9 Human Services is requested to explore the feasibility of
 10 expanding the early head start program to include a broader
 11 range of incomes; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
 14 Services is requested to determine whether expanding income
 15 eligibility would allow children not currently receiving
 16 services to enroll in early head start programs; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
 19 Services is requested to submit its findings and
 20 recommendations, including a determination of whether broadening
 21 the income eligibility would address the gap of children not
 22 currently receiving services, to the Legislature no later than
 23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 24 2016; and

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 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
 28 Services, Director of Health, and Director of the Executive
 29 Office on Early Learning.
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OFFERED BY:

Michelle Lironi
John King

Shianne Chun Oakland
Breene Hunt
Hanna Thul
Angela Bell
Miki
Rose E. Bell

